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always prefer work to talk. Let this majority be reinforced, as it will be now, by the fraction, not insignificant though not large, of members who will prefer to earn their salary by a short session instead of a long one, and the chance of successful effort by the workers to keep the mere talkers in check will be materially enhanced. We regard the new system of compensation as a measure to be not only justified, but praised, as, on considerations of the highest policy, a measure of much more importance and value than has generally been supposed.

Mr. Benton's work in the volume before us is admirably done, and it gives the best promise for the remainder of the series.

3. — *Poems, Original and Translated.* By WILLIAM W. CALDWELL.
Boston: James Munroe & Co. 1857.

WE should be unjust to a little volume which has given us unusual pleasure, if we did not demand for it that attention which volumes of poetry in our day so seldom gain. Mr. Caldwell brings together here a collection of poems, written evidently under many different phases of feeling, and showing, not only an easy command of language, but delicate taste, a quick and accurate sense of the beauties of nature, very charming home affections, and the fancy which melts and mingles all these elements into poetry. There are some admirable translations from the German, which make a part of the volume. The lyric poems have especially pleased us, for they really seem to belong to the very limited class of modern lyrics that can be sung.

4. — *The Sultan and his People.* By C. OSCANYAN, of Constantinople. New York: Derby and Jackson. 1857. 12mo. pp. 446.

THE high-flown and hyperbolic style of Mr. Oscanyan's dissertations and descriptions indicates his Oriental parentage. His literary mother is the University of New York, but it is to be hoped that his English is not altogether the fruit and issue of her training. It is the language of a college sophomore.

But the book is entertaining, and has real merit. It gives an excellent picture of the characteristic features of Turkish life, religion, government, education, fashions, and social relations. An Armenian himself, Mr. Oscanyan of course represents his brethren of that race as favorably as possible, tracing their pedigree down from a fabulous an-

tiquity, and attributing to them an influence and an excellence not quite justified by the experience of outsiders who have had dealings with them. Not being a Greek, he of course represents the Greeks as the basest and most treacherous of the Sultan's subjects, a bright, but alas! such a wicked people. Like Lamartine, he makes a hero of that sick and effeminate ruler who is the heir to the honors of Osmanli tyrants. His opening chapter on Orientalism is as amusingly profound as his closing chapter on the "Future of Turkey" is delightfully indefinite.

Many of the anecdotes in the volume are quite new, and some of the opinions are original. The author believes that the Turks are the descendants of the lost tribes of Israel; remarks that "mourning for the dead" is considered by them *to be a sin* (has he never heard the howlings of women in their grave-yards?); says that your Osmanli *never* gives "Salaam Aleikum" to an infidel; sets the wells of Marah at *two days* east from Cairo; justifies the murder of the Janizaries as a most righteous and religious act; insists that the Germans are more ignorant of the art of smoking than any other people; tells some strange stories about the Jews, and vehemently combats the notions of the harem which prevail in, or rather (to use his frequent word) *per-vade*, the West. On the whole, however, the book is candid and reliable, composed in an excellent spirit, and with some artistic skill.

5. — *The Bay Path. A Tale of New England Colonial Life.* By J. G. HOLLAND, Author of the "History of Western Massachusetts," etc. New York: G. P. Putnam. 1857. 12mo. pp. 418.

NOT every one who is skilled in antiquarian research, and able to compile a good history, succeeds in writing an historical novel. In the work before us, however, Mr. Holland has proved that the gifts of the novelist and the historian are not incompatible. The characters of his tale are well conceived and well sustained, and the story, though quiet and sober in its coloring, is interesting from beginning to end. The descriptions of scenery are those of a careful observer, and the exhibition of opinions, dogmas, and religious differences, as they were two centuries ago, shows that the author's sympathies are large, generous, and catholic. The story has a perfect unity, and the attention of the reader is never diverted from its principal personages,—the families of Pyncheon the magistrate, Moxon the minister, and Woodcock, the rude and free outlaw. There is an adherence to facts in dealing with these personages somewhat closer than is usual in historical novels. The Colonial Records give authority for most of the statements, and